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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (04/22): PALESTINIANS EXPRESS
SUPPORT FOR LAW AND ORDER EFFORTS

Main Stories:

All dailies lead with reporting and pictures of President Obama's meeting with Jordanian King Abdullah in Washington on April 21. According to coverage, the two leaders expressed serious commitment to achieving peace and stability in the Middle East including ending the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Obama noted that he is committed to the two-state solution and to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and added that the next few months will witness some positive changes and good faith initiatives regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. President Obama stressed the importance of bilateral talks between Israel and Palestinians, noting that there must be a clear timeframe for talks that should yield tangible results on the ground, the papers report. Reporting further notes that Obama will support the Arab Peace Initiative. King Abdullah noted that he will do everything he can to help Obama achieve regional peace and stability, reporting concludes.

All front pages report, citing DPA, that Obama will invite Palestinian Authority President Abbas, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Egyptian President Mubarak for separate talks in the U.S. at an unspecified time in the future. In related coverage, Al Quds runs an inside political cartoon showing Obama holding a dove in one hand, labeled "Arab Peace Process," and waiving with his other hand dismissively at Israeli Premier Netanyahu who is chanting, "economic peace."

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida runs front page coverage on April 22 visit of Egyptian Intelligence Chief Sulayman to Israel. Sulayman will discuss a number of issues related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the situation in Gaza and particularly, the status of the prisoner-exchange deal involving the release of captured Israeli soldier Shalit. Sulyman is expected to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Barak, the paper notes.

All dailies front page coverage, citing AFP, of six Norwegian lawyers filing a suit in Norwegian courts against senior Israeli officials for war crimes and other human rights abuses allegedly committed during the recent conflict in Gaza. The suit names former

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Defense Minister Barak and seven other senior military officers, according to coverage.

All front pages report on the April 21 visit of Palestinian Authority (PA) President Abbas to the United Arab Emirates(UAE) where he met with senior officials and discussed the impact of Special Envoy Mitchell's recent visit. In related news, Al-Quds runs a front page story citing DPA about the purpose of Abbas' visit to the UAE, which is to request financial assistance to the PA since donor countries have not met pledges for assistance in March and April. The budget shortfall is delaying payment of PA employeesalaries, according to coverage.

Al Hayat Al-Jaida front page and inside pages of Al-Quds and A-Ayyam run reports on Palestinian Authority (PA) Premier Fayyad receiving the Brazilian Minister of griculture and a French delegation in Ramallah o April 21. In meetings, Fayyad noted that "continued, severe" Israeli measures [home demolitions, ettlements, restrictions on movement] will only strengthen Palestinian resolve to end Israeli occuation and establish an independent state.

All dilies report on inside pages that Palestinian Authority Minister of Religious Affairs Bawatna met with a delegation from the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem on April 21. Bawatna expressed

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his great appreciation for U.S. support to the Palestinian Authority, according to coverage.

In cultural news, all dailies report on the concert tour by a Cajun band that was sponsored by the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem. Coverage notes that the group played concerts and gave workshops in Jerusalem and throughout the West Bank. In related news, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida and Al-Ayyam run inside stories on an April 21 visit to Jenin by a delegation from the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem. The "cultural affairs" delegation visited Arab American University in Jenin to "explore opportunities for mutual cooperation," according to coverage.

In economic news, all dailies report on USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission Director Sumka's trip to Hebron on April 21 where he visited a number of USAID funded projects and met with the Hebron Mayor and Businessmen Forum to explore support to economic growth efforts in the district.-----

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Radwan Sayyid opines in Al-Quds independent daily under the title, "Israelis, Arabs and future peace talks"(04/22): "After U.S. Envoy Mitchell's repeated visits to the region to pave the way for peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians... Israel began to realize that it has no choice but to pursue peace talks... especially since the U.S. position has changed with coming of Obama's era, [Obama] is in favor of a comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution..."

2) Regular columnist Hamada Faranah opines in Al-Ayyam daily y independent under the title, "Rejecting the attack on [Hamas]PLC member Bitawi" (04/22): "Any attack committed by Palestinians against [any] Palestinian Legislative Council members is not acceptable... particularly since Palestinian Security Forces are working hard to maintain and promote law and order in the Palestinian Territories... The Palestinian people have suffered enough at the hands of Israel, we should not also be harming ourselves."

WALLES